

Before the
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

)	
In the Matter of)	
)	
Amendment of Section 73.622(b),)	MB Docket No. 02-104
Table of Allotments,)	RM-10390
Digital Television Broadcast Stations.)	
(Wrens, Savannah, Waycross,)	
Dawson, & Pelham, Georgia))	
)	

NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULE MAKING

Adopted: May 10, 2002

Released: May 17, 2002

Comment Date: July 8, 2002

Reply Comment Date: July 23, 2002

By the Chief, Video Division:

1. The Commission has before it a petition for rule making filed by the Georgia Public Telecommunications Commission ("GPTC"), licensee of stations WCES-TV, WVAN-TV, WXGA-TV, WACS-TV and WABW-TV, licensed to Wrens, Savannah, Waycross, Dawson, and Pelham, Georgia, respectively, requesting changes to the DTV Table of Allotments. Specifically, GPTC requests the substitution of DTV channel *2 for DTV channel *36 at Wrens; DTV channel *13 for DTV channel *46 at Savannah, DTV channel *9 for DTV channel *18 at Waycross; DTV channel *8c for DTV channel *26c at Dawson; and DTV channel *5 for DTV channel DTV *20 at Pelham.

2. In support of its proposal, GPTC states that as an agency of the State of Georgia it operates nine public television stations and twelve noncommercial educational television translators serving virtually all of Georgia. Eight of GPTC's nine full power stations have been assigned UHF DTV allotments, which according to GPTC, are far more expensive to operate than would VHF DTV allotments. GPTC contends that adoption of its channel changes would allow it to reduce its operating costs and devote more resources to educational programming. GPTC also states that granting its proposal will benefit the Rural Broadband initiative upon which GPTC has recently embarked. GPTC claims that it aims to provide Internet services via its DTV stations to Georgia's under-served population areas. It believes that changing its stations' channels to operate on VHF channels will permit GPTC to implement this initiative in a more efficient manner.

3. We believe petitioner's proposal warrants consideration, since it enable GPTC to reduces its operating costs and operate at lower powers. DTV channels *2, *13, *9, *8c and *5 can be substituted and allotted to Wrens, Savannah, Waycross, Dawson, Pelham, as proposed, in

compliance with the principle community coverage requirements of Section 73.625(a).¹ In addition, we find that these channel changes are acceptable under the 2 percent criterion for de minimis impact that is applied in evaluating requests for modification of initial DTV allotments under Section 73.623(c)(2).² As requested, we also propose to modify the authorizations of stations WCES-TV, WVAN-TV, WXGA-TV, WACS-TV, and WABW-TV to operate on the new channels the following specifications:

State & City	DTV Channel	DTV power (kW)	Antenna HAAT (m)
GA Wrens	*2	4.9	436
GA Savannah	*13	10	293
GA Waycross	*9	4.6	286
GA Dawson	*8c	4.9	331
GA Pelham	*5	0.75	474

4. Accordingly, we seek comments on the proposed amendment of the DTV Table of Allotments, Section 73.622(b) of the Commission's Rules, for the community listed below, to read as follows:

<u>City</u>	<u>Channel No.</u>	
	<u>Present</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
Wrens, Georgia	*36	*2
Savannah, Georgia	15, 23c, 39, *46	*13, 15, 23c, 39
Waycross, Georgia	*18	*9

¹ The coordinates for the above-noted DTV channels are as follows: DTV channel *2 at Wrens are 33-15-33 and 82-17-09; DTV channel *13 at Savannah are 32-08-48 and 81-37-05; DTV channel *9 at Waycross are 31-13-17 and 82-34-24; DTV channel *8 at Dawson are 31-56-15 and 84-33-15; and, DTV *5 at Pelham are 30-40-13 and 83-56-26.

² We find that WVAN's proposal would involve contour overlap to low power TV station WXSX-LP (Class A application pending) at Savannah, Georgia, however, WXSX-LP has agreed to move to another channel. In addition, WXGA's proposal would cause more than 2 percent interference to WVAN's NTSC operation, and WVAN has agreed to accept the additional interference. Finally, WACS's proposal would cause more than 2 percent interference to WXGA's NTSC operation, nevertheless, WXGA has agreed to accept the addition interference.

Dawson, Georgia	*26c	*8c
Pelham, Georgia	*20	*5

5. The Commission's authority to institute rule making proceedings, showings required, cut-off procedures, and filing requirements are contained in the attached Appendix and are incorporated by reference herein. In particular, we note that a showing of continuing interest is required by paragraph 2 of the Appendix before a channel will be allotted.

6. Interested parties may file comments on or before July 8, 2002, and reply comments on or before July 23, 2002, and are advised to read the Appendix for the proper procedures. Comments should be filed with the Secretary, Federal Communications Commission, Washington, D.C. 20554. Additionally, a copy of such comments should be served on the petitioner, or its counsel or consultant, as follows:

Donald T. Stepka
Arnold & Porter
555 Twelfth Street, NW
Washington, DC 20004-1206
(Counsel for Georgia Public Telecommunications Commission)

7. The Commission has determined that the relevant provisions of the Regulatory Flexibility Act of 1980 do not apply to rule making proceedings to amend the TV Table of Allotments, Section 73.606(b) and 73.622(b) of the Commission's Rules. See Certification That Sections 603 and 604 of the Regulatory Flexibility Act Do Not Apply to Rule Making to Amend Sections 73.202(b), 73.504 and 73.606(b) of the Commission's Rules, 46 FR 11549, February 9, 1981. The Regulatory Flexibility Act of 1980 would also not apply to rule making proceedings to amend the DTV Table of Allotments, Section 73.622(b) of the Commission's Rules.

8. For further information concerning this proceeding, contact Pam Blumenthal, Media Bureau, (202) 418-1600. For purposes of this restricted notice and comment rule making proceeding, members of the public are advised that no ex parte presentations are permitted from the time the Commission adopts a Notice of Proposed Rule Making until the proceeding has been decided and such decision is no longer subject to reconsideration by the Commission or review by any court. An ex parte presentation is not prohibited if specifically requested by the Commission or staff for the clarification or adduction of evidence or resolution of issues in the proceeding. However, any new written information elicited from such a request or a summary of any new oral information shall be served by the person making the presentation upon the other parties to the proceeding unless the Commission specifically waives this service requirement. Any comment which has not been served on the petitioner constitutes an ex parte presentation and shall not be considered in the proceeding. Any reply comment which has not been served on the person(s) who

filed the comment, to which the reply is directed, constitutes an ex parte presentation and shall not be considered in the proceeding.

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Barbara A. Kreisman
Chief, Video Division
Media Bureau

Attachment: Appendix

APPENDIX

1. Pursuant to authority found in Sections 4(i), 5(c)(1), 303(g) and (r), and 307(b) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, and Sections 0.61, 0.204(b) and 0.283 of the Commission's Rules, IT IS PROPOSED TO AMEND the DTV Table of Allotments, Section 73.622(b) of the Commission's Rules and Regulations, as set forth in the Notice of Proposed Rule Making to which this Appendix is attached.

2. Showings Required. Comments are invited on the proposal(s) discussed in the Notice of Proposed Rule Making to which this Appendix is attached. Proponent(s) will be expected to answer whatever questions are presented in initial comments. The proponent of a proposed allotment is also expected to file comments even if it only resubmits or incorporates by reference its former pleadings. It should also restate its present intention to apply for the channel if it is allotted and, if authorized, to build a station promptly. Failure to file may lead to denial of the request.

3. Cut-off protection. The following procedures will govern the consideration of filings in this proceeding.

(a) Counterproposals advanced in this proceeding itself will be considered, if advanced in initial comments, so that parties may comment on them in reply comments. They will not be considered if advanced in reply comments. (See Section 1.420(d) of the Commission's Rules).

(b) With respect to petitions for rule making which conflict with the proposals in this Notice, they will be considered as comments in the proceeding, and Public Notice to this effect will be given as long as they are filed before the date for filing initial comments herein. If they are filed later than that, they will not be considered in connection with the decision in this docket.

(c) The filing of a counterproposal may lead the Commission to allot a different channel than was requested for any of the communities involved.

4. Comments and Reply Comments; Service. Pursuant to applicable procedures set out in Sections 1.415 and 1.420 of the Commission's Rules and Regulations, interested parties may file comments and reply comments on or before the dates set forth in the Notice of Proposed Rule Making to which this Appendix is attached. All submissions by parties to this proceeding or by persons acting on behalf of such parties must be made in written comments, reply comments, or other appropriate pleadings. Comments shall be served on the petitioner by the person filing the comments. Reply comments shall be served on the person(s) who filed comments to which the reply is directed. Such comments and reply comments shall be accompanied by a certificate of service. (See Section 1.420(a), (b) and (c) of the Commission's Rules.) Comments should be filed with the Secretary, Federal Communications Commission, Washington, D.C. 20554.

5. Number of Copies. In accordance with the provisions of Section 1.420 of the Commission's Rules and Regulations, an original and four copies of all comments, reply comments,

pleadings, briefs, or other documents shall be furnished the Commission.

6. Public Inspection of Filings. All filings made in this proceeding will be available for examination by interested parties during regular business hours in the Commission's Reference Center (Room CY-A257) at its headquarters, 445 12th Street, S.W., Washington, D.C.